

### Subpart E-3—Office of Public Affairs

#### § 0.28 General functions.

The Office of Public Affairs is headed by a Director of Public Affairs who shall:

- (a) Handle matters pertaining to relations with the public generally.
- (b) Disseminate information to the press, the radio and television services, the public, members of Congress, officials of Government, schools, colleges, and civic organizations.
- (c) Coordinate the relations of the Department of Justice with the news media.
- (d) Serve as a central agency for information relating to the work and activities of all agencies of the Department.
- (e) Prepare public statements and news releases.
- (f) Coordinate Department publications.
- (g) Assist the Attorney General and other officials of the Department in preparing for news conferences, interviews and other contacts with the news media.

[Order No. 960-81, 46 FR 52343, Oct. 27, 1981. Redesignated by Order No. 1497-91, 56 FR 25629, June 5, 1991]

### Subpart E-4—Office of the Inspector General

SOURCE: Order No. 2167-98, 63 FR 36847, July 8, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 0.29 Organization.

(a) The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is composed of the Inspector General; the Deputy Inspector General; the Audit, Inspections, Investigations, and Management and Planning Divisions; the Special Investigations and Review Unit; and the Office of General Counsel.

(b) The OIG is headquartered in Washington, DC. Investigations Field Offices and Audit Regional Offices are located in Washington, DC and throughout the United States. For a listing of specific office locations, see the OIG Internet Website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig>.

#### § 0.29a General functions.

(a) The OIG is a statutorily created independent entity within the Department of Justice subject to the general supervision of the Attorney General that conducts and supervises audits, inspections, and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the Department; recommends policies to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in Departmental programs and operations; and keeps the Attorney General and Congress informed about the problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of the Department and the necessity for and progress of corrective action.

(b) In order to carry out its responsibilities the OIG:

- (1) Audits and inspects Department programs and operations as well as non-Department entities contracting with or receiving benefits from the Department;
- (2) Investigates allegations of criminal wrongdoing and administrative misconduct on the part of Department employees, as provided in § 0.29c of this subpart;
- (3) Investigates allegations that individuals and entities outside of the Department have engaged in activity that adversely affects the Department's programs and operations;
- (4) Undertakes sensitive investigations of Department operations and/or personnel, often at the request of senior Department officials or Congress.

#### § 0.29b Reporting allegations of waste, fraud, or abuse.

Employees shall report evidence and non-frivolous allegations of waste, fraud, or abuse relating to the programs and operations of the Department to the OIG or to a supervisor for referral to the OIG.

#### § 0.29c Reporting allegations of employee misconduct.

(a) *Reporting to the OIG.* Evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by Department employees shall be reported to the OIG except as provided in § 0.29c(b) through (d) of this section.

(b) *Reporting to the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (DOJ-*

#### §0.29d

*OPR*). Employees shall report to DOJ-OPR evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by Department attorneys that relate to the exercise of their authority to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice. Employees shall also report to DOJ-OPR evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by Department law enforcement personnel that are related to allegations of misconduct by a Department attorney that relate to the exercise of the attorney's authority to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice.

(c) *Reporting to the Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Professional Responsibility (DEA-OPR)*. Evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by employees of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) shall be reported to the Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Professional Responsibility (DEA-OPR) or to the Deputy Attorney General.

(d) *Reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office of Professional Responsibility (FBI-OPR)*. Evidence and non-frivolous allegations of serious misconduct by employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) shall be reported to the FBI-OPR except as provided in §0.29d of this subpart, or to the Deputy Attorney General.

#### **§0.29d Whistleblower protection for FBI employees.**

(a) *Protected disclosures by FBI employees*. Disclosures of information by an FBI employee that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety are protected disclosures and may be reported to the OIG, DOJ-OPR, or FBI-OPR. The OIG and DOJ-OPR shall refer such allegations to FBI-OPR for investigation unless the Deputy Attorney General determines that such referral shall not be made.

(b) *Allegations of retaliation against FBI employees*. Allegations of retaliation against an employee of the FBI who makes a protected disclosure shall be reported to the OIG, DOJ-OPR, or the Deputy Attorney General.

#### 28 CFR Ch. I (7–1–99 Edition)

#### **§0.29e Relationship to other departmental units.**

(a) The OIG works cooperatively with other Department components to assure that allegations of employee misconduct are investigated by the appropriate entity:

(1) The OIG refers to DOJ-OPR, FBI-OPR, or DEA-OPR allegations of misconduct within their respective jurisdiction and may refer to another component the investigation of an allegation of administrative misconduct on the part of an employee of that component;

(2) DOJ-OPR refers to the OIG, FBI-OPR, or DEA-OPR allegations involving misconduct by Department attorneys or investigators that do not relate to the exercise of an attorney's authority to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice;

(3) The FBI and DEA provide contemporaneous notice to the OIG of all allegations of serious criminal conduct and serious administrative misconduct regarding their respective senior employees (grade 15 and above) and all work-related serious criminal conduct (except travel voucher fraud or false statements) regarding their other employees;

(4) The OIG and the FBI notify each other of the existence of criminal investigations that fall within their joint jurisdiction to investigate crimes involving the operations of the Department, except where such notification could compromise the integrity of an investigation;

(5) Other Department components report to the OIG all allegations of serious misconduct involving any of their employees except allegations involving Department attorneys and investigators that relate to an attorney's authority to litigate, investigate, or provide legal advice;

(6) At the request of the Inspector General, the Deputy Attorney General may assign to the OIG a matter within the investigative jurisdiction of another internal investigative component. In such instances, the OIG shall either:

(i) Notify the component of its request to the Deputy Attorney General or